

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. HH018

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers / Rangiora Library

ADDRESS 133 Percival Street, Rangiora

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr A McEwan, 11 Oct 2018)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H077 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 3786 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 4 DP 12852

VALUATION NUMBER 2166107300

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1906-7

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** FJ Barlow, architect; Messrs Vincent & Golding, builders

STYLE Edwardian Baroque

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building within larger complex has L-shaped footprint and hipped and monopitch roof forms. Principal, east-facing elevation has centre and ends composition with projecting bays framing central section with offset entry. Constructional polychromy, rusticated pilasters and end bays have windows with Gibbs surround. Solid parapet with decorative panels atop end bays; cornices and panelled entry doors. Notable interior decorative work includes leadlight dome and plasterwork.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Library conversion (1967). Rear extension (1977). Trevor Inch Memorial Library extension (Skews Hey Ussher, architects, 1996-97).

SETTING

The building stands on the west side of Percival Street, south of its intersection with Alfred Street and north of Victoria Park. Located at the eastern edge of the civic centre, the former council chambers is the oldest component in a three part library and community building. The extent of scheduling is limited to that part of the land parcel on which the 1907 council chambers is located along with the associated open space to the east and south.

HISTORY

The second Rangiora Borough Council Chambers was erected in Percival Street on the site of the first in 1906-7. The borough council had come about as the result of a petition presented to the Mandeville and Rangiora Road Board that was tabled in November 1877. Petitioners believed that the board was not giving due consideration to the town's concerns and eventually this led to Rangiora being declared a borough. The first borough election took place in June 1878 and the council quickly purchased a property in Percival Street on which to build council chambers. The first meeting held in the new timber chambers occurred on 13 September 1880. While construction of replacement chambers was under way in 1906-7 the council met in the North Canterbury Co-operative Stores Company's board room. The first council meeting in the new chambers was held on 14 June 1907, the old chambers having been moved slightly to the south to extend the fire station (now demolished). The 1907 council chambers were converted for use as the town's library in 1967, after which time the borough council met in the Town Hall. In 1981 new borough council chambers opened on High Street, becoming the headquarters of the Waimakariri District Council after amalgamation. The 1907 building was refurbished after the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquakes and reopened in August 2012. It was recognised as a Waimakariri Landmark in 2014 and the principal space within it is now known as the Chamber Gallery, having served as an exhibition space since 1997.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers has high historical and social significance for its association with the provision of local government services in Rangiora since 1907 and the contribution made by the Rangiora Borough Council to the growth and development of the town. The building is also associated with the previous mayors, councillors and staff of the borough council and its successor district council.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers has cultural significance because it demonstrates the way of life of all those who worked in or were served by the Rangiora Borough Council between 1907 and 1966 and for the esteem in which it is held as a district landmark. The building houses the Rangiora Borough Council World War I Roll of Honour and therefore has additional significance as a place of commemoration.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers has high architectural significance as a rare surviving example of the work of Christchurch architect FJ Barlow. Frederick John Barlow (known as Fred, 1868-1939) was born in Christchurch and served his articles with Alfred Simpson. After a period spent working in Australia, he established his practice in Christchurch in 1893. Barlow designed houses for the Workers' Dwellings settlement in Sydenham, Christchurch in 1906 and was also responsible for the machinery hall at the International Exhibition held in Hagley Park in 1906-7. He served on both the St Albans and Sumner borough councils and was an active member of the NZ Institute of Architects. The noted Timaru architect Herbert Hall trained in Barlow's office, as did Henry St Aubyn Murray, the designer of the Rangiora Town Hall (H079).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers has technological and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction and classical detailing. Arthur Vincent and John Golding were Rangiora builders active between 1880 and 1920. The firm also built the Rangiora Bowling Club pavilion (1911, H078) and Golding Avenue is named for John Golding (1858-1920), who made the reredos for the Ashley Anglican Church in 1906.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers has contextual significance as a historic feature on Percival Street and within the town centre streetscape. Together with the former Courthouse (H059, 1893), which is located to the north along Percival Street, and the other buildings associated with the Waimakariri District Council, the former council chambers provides evidence of the long-standing governmental hub located in this part of the Rangiora town centre. As Hawkins records the post office, magistrate's court, police station and residence, council chambers and fire station were all once lined up along the west side the Percival Street.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the building post-dates 1900, its site may have potential archaeological value in relation to the earlier, colonial use and development of the property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers / Rangiora Library has high overall heritage significance to Rangiora and the district of Waimakariri as a whole. The building has high historical and social significance for its association with the local governmental history of Rangiora and cultural significance as a place of community esteem and local identity. The former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers has high architectural significance as a rare surviving design by Christchurch architect Fred Barlow and technological and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction and classical detailing by Messrs Vincent and Golding. The former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers has contextual significance as a historic feature within the civic hub; its site has some potential archaeological value in view of its location and the property's pre-1900 development.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

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- http://ketewaimakariri.peoplesnetworknz.info/people_of_the_waimakariri/topics/show/91-john-golding

REPORT COMPLETED

9 April 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, limited to building footprint and immediate open space environs, former Rangiora Borough Council Chambers, 133 Percival Street, Rangiora.



Roll of Honour and leadlight dome. Dr A McEwan, 11 October 2018.